

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for producing a fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising the steps of: providing a fabric with at least minute gaps between fibers thereof; placing said fabric with a side thereof on a mold having at least resting portions for the fabric and at least regions which are recessed with respect to said resting portions; applying an elastomer to a side of said fabric that lies opposite to the side directed toward said mold; applying pressure to make the elastomer flow through said minute gaps located at said recessed regions in order to fill said recessed regions with the elastomer; and extracting the formed sandwich from the mold.

2. The method of claim 1, comprising providing said elastomer to be applied to a side of the fabric as a sheet-like element, made of elastomeric material.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of applying pressure to said elastomer by way of a counter-mold which is shaped so as to mate with said resting portions.

4. The method of claim 2, comprising the steps of heating and pressing said fabric and elastomer by applying, when said mold and said counter-mold are mated, a temperature capable of liquefying said elastomer and a pressure suitable to make said elastomer flow through said fabric.

5. The method of claim 4, comprising the step of applying a separation layer between said fabric and said elastomer, said separation layer being adapted to break selectively at said recessed regions in order to allow the elastomer to flow through the fabric, said separation layer being further adapted to allow removal of a continuous layer of elastomer formed on one side of the fabric.

6. The method of claim 5, comprising providing said separation layer constituted by a non-oriented plastic film with a thickness of 10 to 40 microns.

7. The method of claim 5, comprising providing said separation layer

constituted by any of a mono- and biaxially oriented plastic film with a thickness between 5 and 25 microns.

8. The method of claim 5, comprising providing said elastomer constituted by blends based on materials selected from a group including rubber, IR, BR, SBR, NBR, NR, EPDM, EVA.

9. The method of claim 5, comprising providing said elastomer constituted by silicone rubbers.

10. The method of claim 5, comprising providing said elastomer as a material of the thermoplastic type, selected from a group including TPU, TR, PVC and other similar materials.

11. The method of claim 5, wherein in said heating and pressing step temperatures between 140 and 180 °C are provided.

12. A fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising a fabric having, on at least one side thereof, separate regions which are in relief with respect to the fabric surface, and are formed by an elastomer subjected to pressure and heating such as to make it flow through said fabric. ] = method learnt.

13. The sandwich of claim 12, comprising said separate elastomer regions on one side thereof and a continuous layer of elastomer on the opposite side.

14. The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, comprising a layer of fabric which has, on both sides thereof, separate regions made of the elastomer flowed through said fabric, said separate regions being in relief with respect to said fabric surface.

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